

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 04409 101528Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 689

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4409

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UK

SUBJ: CYPRUS: NICOSIA AIRPORT REOPENING

1. PAST FEW HOURS HAVE SEEN A LOT OF ACTIVITY HERE ON
QUESTION OF NICOSIA AIRPORT REOPENING WHICH MAY BE GERMAIN
TO YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH ESENBEL AND BITSIOS IN BRUSSELS.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR INHAN DECEMBER 9
I LEARNED THAT TURKS, THROUGH UN, HAD GOTTEN A FALSE IMPRESS-
ION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR NICOSIA AIRPORT REOPENING WHICH
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND I HAVE BEEN EXPLORING WITH
CLERIDES AND DENKTASH. PROBABLY BY ACCIDENT, IN HIS LAST CON-
VERSATION WITH CLERIDES AND DENKTACH, UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE NECKMANN SPOKE OF A UNFICYP RPT UNFICYP UMBRELLS ROLE BOTH
FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF FIR AND PROVISIONAL REOPENING OF NICOSIA
AIRPORT. SINCE UNFICYP IS IN BAD GRACES OF TURKS, THIS
GOT THEIR BACKS UP. IN REPORTING TO ANKARA THE UN'S IDEAS
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 04409 101528Z

FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF FIR AND AIRPORT REOPENING,

INHAN STRONGLY RECOMMENDED A FLAT GOT TURNDOWN.

3. I TOLD INHAN THAT THE PACKAGE AS I PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORTED IT CONSISTED OF FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) RECONSTITUTION OF NICOSIA FIR COMPRISING GREEK CYPRIOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT TECHNICIANS, DRAWING ON BRITISH EXPERTISE AS NECESSARY, AND UNDER AN ICAO SUPERVISOR. (B) SUBSEQUENTLY, REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT UNDER UN/ICAO MANAGEMENT ASSISTED BY A JOINT GREEK CYPRIOT-TURKISH CYPRIOT BOARD. (C) UNFICYP ROLE UNDER BOTH (A) AND (B) LIMITED TO ASSISTING IN MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY AT AIRPORT. (D) THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF PROVISIONAL REOPENING AND UNTIL A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION, MILITARY DISPOSITIONS AROUND AIRPORT TO REMAIN AS AT PRESENT. (D) WITH A SOLUTION, UN/ICAO MANAGEMENT TO DROP AWAY AND AIRPORT MANAGEMENT TO BE TAKEN OVER BY JOINT BOARD PROVIDED BY (B) INCORPORATED IN A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. I STRESSED THAT IN MY VIEW THE USE OF THE TERM "UN" IN THE REFERENCE TO "UN/ICAO" MEANS A LINE BACK TO UNSYG THROUGH HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HERE.

4. I SAID TO INHAN THAT THIS PACKAGE WOULD MEET GOT'S FUNDAMENTAL INSISTENCE THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ACCEPT FROM THE OUTSET THE CONCEPT THAT THE TWO COMMUNITIES JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AIRPORT. I NOTED THAT CLERIDES, AT LEAST, HAD ACCEPTED THIS. INHAN REPLIED THAT IF PACKAGE WAS WHAT I HAD OUTLINED, RATHER THAN AS COMMUNICATED BY WECKMANN, ANKARA COULD ACCEPT IT WITHOUT DELAY. I SAID I WOULD GET BACK TO THE UN TO TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT.

5. ON DECEMBER 10 I SPOKE TO UN SENIOR POLITICAL ADVISOR GORGE WHO ACTING IN WECKMANN'S PLACE DURING LATTER'S ABSENCE IN NEW YORK. HE CONFIRMED THAT MINUTES OF LAST CLERIDES-DENKTASH MEETING SHOWED THAT WECKMANN DID REFER TO UNFICYP RATHER THAN UN/ICAO IN TERMS OF PROVISIONAL MANAGEMENT ROLE. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS ANATHEMA TO TURKS AND MEANT THAT PROPOSALS FOR FIR REOPENING WERE IN EFFECT BEING VETOED BY TURKISH EMBASSY HERE BEFORE THEY EVER REACHED ANKARA. GORGE WHO SEEING CLERIDES LATER THIS MORNING, ASSURED ME HE WOULD TRY TO GET MISUNDERSTANDING CLEARED UP AND MOVE PACKAGE BACK ON THE TRACKS.
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 04409 101528Z

6. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER OLVER SAW CLERIDES EARLIER THIS MORNING. ON BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS, HE SHARES MY BELIEF THAT PACKAGE IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

7. JUST TO CONFIRM, I AM SEEING CLERIDES SHORTLY AND WILL SUPPORT GORGE WHEN HE GOES BACK TO INHAN.

8. COMMENT: FROM INHAN, I AM AWARE THAT GOT OPPOSES MAKING ANY GESTURES UNTIL ROLES OF MAKARIOS AND CLERIDES AS REGARDS NEGOTIATION HAVE BEEN MADE SPECIFIC. IMPORTANCE OF REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT, HO;34, IS SO CLEAR (FOR GOT AS WELL, I.E. AEROFLOT OFFER) THAT I HOPE YOU CAN PERSUADE ESENBEL TO SUPPORT WITH GOT A PACKAGE UNDERSTANDING ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE.
CRAWFORD

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